

# Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial Will Increase Entrance Fees Beginning June 1

Lincoln City, In. – Starting on June 1, 2015, Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial will increase entrance fees for visitors in order to fund important maintenance and improvement projects within the park. This action is in compliance with the Federal Lands Recreation Act of 2004. Entrance fees are not charged to persons under 16 years of age or holders of the America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Senior, Access or Military Passes.

	Current Entrance Fee	New Fee Beginning June 1, 2015
Per Person	\$3	\$5
Per Vehicle	\$5	\$10
Annual	\$10	\$20

“Lincoln Boyhood has not increased entrance fees since 1998. This modest increase will allow us to continue to protect, preserve and share the special places here at Indiana’s first National Park site,” said Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial Superintendent Kendell Thompson. “After carefully considering the impact of a fee increase on visitors and community members, we came to the conclusion that this is the right course of action to improve facilities and services important to visitors.”

Entrance fees have supported a wide range of projects that improve the park and visitor experiences, including printing Junior Ranger workbooks, rehabilitating the historic pews in the Abraham Lincoln Hall and replacing the visitor center front doors, developing and installing exhibits, and supporting ranger-led programs among other projects. Additional revenue from this fee increase will provide funding for adding audio description in the museum to aid visually impaired visitors and provide safety improvements that will support 911 emergency calls from within the park’s visitor center. Thompson said, “According to a recent report, Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial is a strong economic engine for the surrounding area. In 2014, more than 100,000 park visitors spent \$4.6 million in Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial and in communities near the park.” The study was conducted by U.S. Geological Survey economists Catherine Cullinane Thomas and Christopher Huber and National Park Service economist Lynne Koontz. The report further indicated that visitor spending supported 76 jobs in the local area and had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$6.2 million.

In the fall of 2014, the National Park Service conducted a nationwide review of entrance fees. To solicit public input on a plan that initially proposed two fee increases, one in 2015 and a further increase in 2017, Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial launched a civic engagement campaign in December 2014 through letters to community organizations and leaders, postings on park social media pages, and news releases to media outlets.

During the public comment period, the park received ten formal comments. While the majority of comments supported an increase, many people indicated concern about the second phase of increases planned for 2017. In response Lincoln Boyhood modified the proposal to include only the modest increase in 2015.

Created in 1962, Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial is located off of Indiana Highway 162 in Lincoln City, Indiana. Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial commemorates the place where America's 16<sup>th</sup> President spent his formative years from age 7 to 21. Park, Visitor Center and Historical Farm hours vary seasonally. For more information, please call the park at (812) 937-4541 or visit the park's website at [www.nps.gov/libo](http://www.nps.gov/libo) or "like" us on Facebook.

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